And she follows this up with a second letter, *' with desire of seeing you a virile and not cowardly man, so that you may manfully serve the Spouse of Christ, using both spiritual and temporal means for the honour of God, as this Spouse hath need in these times." Let him open the eyes of his understanding to see her necessities, and let him beware of servile fear (a favourite doctrine of Catherine's, which we find her repeating again and again in almost the same words). Let him look upon the immaculate Lamb, who sought nought save the honour of the Father, and feared nothing, not even the shameful death of the Cross. " We are the scholars, who have been sent to this sweet and gentle school." And the time has come to put these lessons into practice:—

" Strive manfully, to the utmost of your power, to bring about the peace and union of the whole country. And if, for this holy work, it were necessary to give the life of the body, it should be given a thousand times, if it were possible. It is a terrible thing to think and hear and see that we are at war with God, by reason of the multitude of the sins of the subjects and their pastors, and also in corporeal war by reason of the rebellion that has arisen against Holy Church.[1] Where all faithful Christians should be preparing to make war upon the infidels, false Christians are waging it against each other ; and the servants of God cannot contain themselves for grief and bitterness at seeing the damnation of souls who are perishing for this, and the demons are rejoicing, because they see what they want to see. Verily, then, it is time to give our lives in imitation of the Master of Truth, and to care nought for honour or shame that the world would give us in painful torments and death of the body. I am certain that you will do this manfully, if you are clothed with the new man, Christ Jesus, and stripped of the old, to wit, of your own sensuality ; for then you will have cast off servile fear ; in no other way would you ever do it, but would rather fall into the very sins I have

[1] *i. e.* the war between Bernabo Visconti and the Holy See. Catherine, in her letter to Bernabo himself, describes it in the same way as " rebellion against Holjr Church."